

Message Text

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USAREUR FOR POLAD AND AEAGB-CI

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 2240

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, GE, US, WB
SUBJECT: GDR HUMANITARIAN CASES: LEONARD LEE LOTT

1. LEONARD LEE LOTT, WHOSE FIANCEE AND CHILD WERE ON
LIST OF HUMANITARIAN CASES PASSED TO GDR DURING US-GDR
NEGOTIATIONS ON ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND
WHO IS ENLISTED MEMBER OF US FORCES BERLIN, HAS RECENTLY
REPORTED TO HIS COMMANDER THAT HIS FIANCEE --A PHYSICIAN
IN EAST BERLIN -- WAS ACCOSTED IN OCTOBER UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES
SUGGESTING GDR SECURITY AGENCIES MAY BE ATTEMPTING TO
COMPROMISE HER OR LOTT OR BOTH. LOTT'S VOLUNTARY APPROACH
CAME JUST AS MILITARY AUTHORITIES, AFTER
CONSULATATION
WITH MISSION, WERE ON VERGE OF APPREHENDING HIM FOR
QUESTIONING; HE HAS LONG BEEN UNDER INVESTIGATION BECAUSE
OF SUSPICIONS AROUSED BY HIS FREQUENT VISITS TO EAST
BERLIN IN VIOLATION OF REGULATIONS IN CIVILIAN CLOTHING
AND BY S-BAHN). LOTT GIVES APPEARANCE OF
COOPERATING FULLY IN ARMY INTERROGATION, WHICH IS AIMED
AT ASCERTAINING WHETHER HE HAS ALREADY FALLEN PREY TO
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GDR SECURITY APPARATUS. (HIS WORK IN OFFICER PERSONNEL RECORDS

SECTION WHILE WOULD DOUBTLESS BE OF INTEREST TO GDR.)

2. IN COURSE OF ARMY QUESTIONING LOTT EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE BITTERNESS AT DEPARTMENT'S HANDLING OF HIS CASE WITH GDR. CONSUL GENERAL, TOGETHER WITH CONSULAR OFFICER WHO HAD MET LOTT ONCE PREVIOUSLY, THEREFORE MET WITH HIM DECEMBER 6 TO HEAR OUT HIS ALLEGATIONS AND EXPLAIN STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH GDR ON HIS AND RELATED CASES. CONVINCED THAT NONECKER WANTED A US AMBASSADOR IN EAST BERLIN "IN THE WORST WAY" AND WOULD HAVE PAID "ANY PRICE," LOTT BELIEVES DEPARTMENT LET HIM DOWN BY NOT HOLDING OUT UNTIL FIANCEES RELEASED AS HE CLAIMED "ALL OTHER COUNTRIES" HAD DONE. MISSION OFFICERS SET RECORD STRAIGHT ON EXPERIENCE OF OTHER NATO COUNTRIES, POINTED OUT THAT USG HAD IN FACT PUSHED HUMANITARIAN ISSUE FURTHER THAN MOST, AND EXPRESSED PERSONAL OPINION THAT GDR ON VERGE OF DECISION IN HUMANITARIAN CASES, THOUGH THERE NO BASIS FOR PREDICTING THAT DECISION WILL BE FAVORABLE. THEY ADDED THAT EMBASSY BERLIN INTENDS TO MAKE HUMANITARIAN CASES A FIRST ORDER OF PRIORITY AFTER EMBASSY OPENS DECEMBER 9.

3. LOTT'S PITCH TO ARMY AND TO MISSION IS THAT HE WANTS AN ADMINISTRATIVE DISCHARGE SO THAT HE CAN REMAIN IN BERLIN AS CIVILIAN TO PROVIDE MORAL SUPPORT TO HIS "WIFE" AND THEIR CHILD. HE TOLD MISOFFS HE AGREED HE SHOULD NOT CONTINUE VISITING EAST BERLIN IN VIOLATION OF REGULATIONS AND WOULD NOT DO ANYTHING IRRATIONAL. HE ADDED THAT, SHOULD HE BE SUDDENLY TRANSFERRED FROM BERLIN, HOWEVER, HE NOT CERTAIN WHAT WOULD FOLLOW.

4. COMMENT. LOTT IS DISTRAUGHT AND CLEARLY FEELS THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT FOR FAVORABLE GDR ACTION ON FINANCIER'S REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO MARRY, HE ALSO IS EITHER DISSEMBLING EXPERTLY OR EXTREMELY NAIVE IN BEING CONVINCED THAT GDR NOT AWARE HE IS A GI. UNTIL INVESTIGATION PROGRESSES FURTHERN, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REACH FIRM CONCLUSION ON WHAT HAS SO FAR TRANSPAIRIED WITH GDR AUTHORITIES. HIS STORY IS SO IMPLAUSIBLE IN PLACES THAT IT JUST MAY BE TRUE.

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(DETAILS INCLUDE, E.G., ALLEGATION THAT MAN WHO ACCOSTED WIFE BILLED HIMSELF AS SWEDISH DIPLOMAT AND SUBSEQUENTLY ASSAULTED HER, CLAIM THAT HE AND WIFE LATER SPOTTED "SWEDE" IN TRAIN STATION AND GOT INTO FRACAS RESULTING IN LOTT'S TRYING TO PRESS CHARGES, AND ALLEGATION THAT LOTT HIMSELF WAS HELD MANY HOURS BY GDR OFFICIALS, WHO AT ONE POINT SAID HIS WIFE WOULD NEVER GET PERMISSION TO LEAVE GDR.) CONSENSUS HERE

IS THAT ADMINISTRATIVE DISCHARGE WOULD BE IN BEST INTERESTS
OF USG, BUT MILITARY AUTHORITIES MUST FIRST COMPLETE
INVESTIGATION TO SATISFY THEMSELVES THAT LOTT HAS NOT
ALREADY BEEN COOPTED AND CAME TO HIS COMMANDER WITH
SOMEWHAT FANCIFUL STORY BECAUSE HE REALIZED NET WAS TIGHTENING.
ON CONSULAR ASPECT, OUR GUESS AT MOMENT IS THAT WHATEVER HAS
HAPPENED LESSENS ANY LIKELIHOOD OF A FORTHCOMING GDR REPLY
TO USG PETITION ON LOTT'S BEHALF.

5. USCOB CONCURS. SELIGMANN

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